

Sue O'2
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electronic device for processing data, comprising:
 - a data processing subunit for receiving and processing input data;
 - a functional block, included within said data processing subunit, operative as a termination device to terminate the data processed by said data processing subunit; and
 - a memory for storing information pertaining to said functional block.
2. The electronic device of claim 1, further comprising connection means for logically connecting said data processing subunit and other electronics of said electronic device.
3. The electronic device of claim 1 wherein the information stored in said memory indicates that said functional block terminates data received by the data processing subunit.
4. The electronic device of claim 1 wherein the information stored in said memory is accessible by an external electronic apparatus connected to said electronic device.
5. The electronic device of claim 4, further comprising connection means for logically connecting said electronic device and said external electronic apparatus.
6. The electronic device of claim 1, wherein said subunit further comprises another functional block for performing said input data processing and supplying said processed data to said functional block operative as a termination device.
7. The electronic device of claim 1 wherein said memory further stores information pertaining to said subunit.
8. The electronic device of claim 1 wherein said memory is a descriptor.
9. The electronic device of claim 8 wherein said memory has a hierarchical structure.

10. The electronic device of claim 1 wherein said data is image data and said functional block is an image display means that terminates said data by converting the processed data into an image signal and displaying an image corresponding thereto.

11. The electronic device of claim 10 wherein said image display means is a display.

12. The electronic device of claim 10 wherein said image display means is a printer.

13. The electronic device of claim 1 wherein said data is audio data and said functional block is an audio output means that terminates said processed data by converting it into sound corresponding thereto.

14. The electronic device of claim 1 wherein said electronic device is configured to perform data communication with other devices via a serial data bus.

15. The electronic device of claim 14 wherein said information pertaining to said functional block stored within said memory includes information concerning virtual plug information of said functional block.

16. The electronic device of claim 15, further comprising another functional block for processing said data and supplying said processed data to said functional block operative as a terminating device, and said memory further storing information concerning virtual plug information of said another functional block, wherein all of said virtual plug information is accessible by an external apparatus coupled to said electronic device via said serial data bus.

17. The electronic device of claim 14 wherein said serial data bus performs data communication in accordance with the IEEE-1394-1995 standard.

18. The electronic device of claim 1 wherein said electronic device is a digital television receiver.

~~19.~~ A method comprising:

receiving input data at a data processing subunit of an electronic device and processing the received input data at said data processing subunit;
terminating said processed data with a functional block of said subunit; and storing information pertaining to said functional block in a memory.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising logically connecting said data processing subunit and other electronics of said electronic device.

21. The method of claim 19 wherein the information stored in said memory indicates that said functional block terminates data received by the data processing subunit.

22. The method of claim 19, further comprising accessing the information stored in said memory by an external electronic apparatus connected to said electronic device.

23. The method of claim 19 wherein said input data is received by said electronic device over a serial data bus.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein said information pertaining to said functional block stored within said memory includes information concerning virtual plug information of said functional block.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein said electronic device further comprises another functional block for processing said data and supplying said processed data to said functional block that terminates said processed data, and said memory further storing information concerning virtual plug information of said another functional block, and further comprising

accessing all of said virtual plug information stored in said memory by an external apparatus coupled to said electronic device via said serial data bus.

26. A system having a plurality of electronic devices coupled to one other via a data bus to enable transmission of data among said devices, comprising:

a data transmitting device for transmitting data over said data bus;

a data receiving device for receiving the data transmitted by said data transmitting device over said data bus;

wherein said data receiving device comprises:

a data processing subunit for processing said received data;

a functional block, included within said data processing subunit, operative as a termination device to terminate the data processed by said data processing subunit; and

a memory for storing information pertaining to said functional block.

27. The system of claim 26 wherein said data receiving device further includes connection means for logically connecting said data processing subunit and other electronics of said data receiver.

28. The system of claim 26 wherein the information stored in said memory indicates that said functional block terminates data received by the data processing subunit.

29. The system of claim 26 wherein the information stored in said memory is accessible by another electronic apparatus coupled to said data receiving device via said data bus.

30. The system of claim 26 wherein said information pertaining to said functional block stored within said memory includes information concerning virtual plug information of said functional block.

31. The system of claim 26, wherein said data receiving device further comprises another

functional block for processing said data and supplying said processed data to said functional block operative as a terminating device, and said memory further storing information concerning virtual plug information of said another functional block, wherein all of said virtual plug information is accessible by an external apparatus coupled to said data receiving device via said data bus.

32. A data processing method for processing data in a system having a plurality of electronic devices coupled to one another via a data bus, comprising the steps of:
transmitting data from a transmitting device to a receiving device of said plurality of devices;

receiving the data at a data processing subunit in said receiving device;
processing the data received by said data processing subunit;
terminating said processed data with a functional block of said subunit; and
storing information pertaining to said functional block in a memory.

33. The method of claim 32 wherein said information pertaining to said functional block stored within said memory includes information concerning virtual plug information of said functional block.